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Hisayoshi Tsubaki

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MCGINN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, PLLC
8321 OLD COURTHOUSE ROAD
SUITE 200
VIENNA, VA 22182-3817

EXAMINER

PERUNGA VOOR, SATHYANARAYA V

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant(s) Response to Official Action

[1] The response filed on April 24, 2008 has been entered and made of record.

Response to Arguments

[2] Presented arguments have been fully considered but are held unpersuasive. Examiner's response to the presented arguments follows below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Summary of Arguments:

Regarding claim 1, applicant argues the following:

1. Kawata does not teach, "displaying, on a basis of the subject information, subject information used by the photographer to confirm the identity of the subject on a display device before photographing the subject".
2. Kawata does not teach, "photographing the subject using the digital camera after confirming the identity of the subject on the basis of the subject information displayed on the display device".

Examiner's Response:

Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Regarding claim 1, Examiner contends the following:

1. Kawata does teach, "displaying, on a basis of the subject information, subject information used by the photographer to confirm the identity of the subject on a display device before photographing the subject" and "photographing the subject using the digital camera after

confirming the identity of the subject on the basis of the subject information displayed on the display device". Since the person is first confirmed before updating the face image [col. 5, ll. 42-45; col. 8, ll. 9-20].

Accordingly, Examiner maintains the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

[3] Claims 1, 9, 15-17, 19-21 and 37-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kawata**ⁱ in view of **Bley**ⁱⁱ.

Regarding claim 1, Kawata discloses the following claim limitations:

An image recording method [fig. 6], comprising: loading identification information (*i.e.* S1, ID number) of a value or a binary information preliminary added to a subject and subject information (*i.e.* S2, face image signal retrieved from the database, note: the interpretation here comes from applicant's invention, *i.e.* how the applicant's invention accomplishes this task, see specification page 4, ll. 13-23) used by a photographer to confirm an identity of the subject, in a digital camera before photographing the subject [col. 5, ll. 60-67, col. 6, ll. 1-5]; displaying, on a basis of the subject information (*i.e.* face image), subject

information (*i.e. face image*) used by the photographer to confirm the identity of the subject on a display device before photographing the subject [*fig. 2; col. 6, ll. 5-10*]; photographing (*i.e. updating the face image*) the subject using the digital camera after confirming the identity of the subject on the basis of the subject information (*i.e. face image*) displayed on the display device [*fig. 2, col. 8, ll. 9-20, col. 5, ll. 42-45*]; and recording the photographed image (*i.e. new face image*) of the subject in connection with the loaded identification information (*i.e. ID number*) [*col. 8, ll. 29-42*]; and wherein the image recorded (*i.e. new face image*) in connection with the loaded identification information (*i.e. ID number*) is saved to a database [*col. 8, ll. 37-42; col. 7, ll. 45-47*]; and wherein the identification information loading step comprises: reading the subject information (*i.e. S2, face image signal*) corresponding to read subject identification information (*i.e. ID number*), from a database having the subject information (*i.e. face images*) already stored in connection with the subject identification information (*i.e. ID number*) [*col. 6, ll. 1-5, col. 7, ll. 45-47*]; and transmitting the subject information (*i.e. face image*) read from the database, to the digital camera together with the identification information (*i.e. ID number*) [*col. 5, ll. 60-64 and col. 6, ll. 1-5*], and wherein the subject information comprises at least one of the (1) subject's photograph (*i.e. face image*) and (2) name [*col. 6, ll. 1-5*].

Kawata does not explicitly disclose the following claim limitations (emphasis added):

a display step of displaying on a display device of the digital camera; reading the subject identification information from a recording medium having the subject identification information recorded thereon;

However, in the same field of endeavor Bley discloses the deficient claim limitations, as follows:

a display step of displaying on a display device (*i.e.* 13) of the digital camera (*i.e.* 10) [*fig. 2A; col. 4, ll. 35-40*]; a step of reading the subject identification information from a recording medium (*i.e. floppy disk*) having the identification information recorded thereon [*col. 4, ll. 30-35*];

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the teachings of Kawata with Bley in order to obtain a compact and self-contained system [*col. 1, ll. 20-23*].

Regarding claim 9, Kawata meets the claim limitations, as follows:

The image recording method according to claim 1, wherein: reading the identification information reads plural pieces of identification information so that these pieces can be accumulated [*col. 5, ll. 50-57*]; and the transmitting transmits the identification information and the subject information in response to an information obtainment request from the digital camera [*col. 6, ll. 1-10*].

Regarding claim 15 all claimed limitations are set forth and rejected as per discussion for claim 1.

Regarding claim 16, Bley meets the claim limitations, as follows:

The image recording apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the recording medium comprises one of a card, a magnetic card (*i.e. floppy disk*), and an IC card including a bar code recorded thereon, and the input device comprises a card reader (*i.e. floppy disk drive*) [col. 4, ll. 30-35].

Regarding claim 17 Kawata meets the claim limitations, as follows:

The image recording apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a communication device which transmits the image recorded in connection with the identification information, to the database [col. 8, ll. 30-37].

Regarding claims 19, 20 and 21 all claimed limitations are set forth and rejected as per discussion for claims 1, 16 and 17.

Regarding claims 37, 38, 39 and 40 all claimed limitations are set forth and rejected as per discussion for claim 1.

[4] Claims 4, 18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kawata** in view of **Bley** further in view of **Conner**ⁱⁱⁱ et al. (“Conner”).

Regarding claim 4, Kawata and Bley meet the claim limitations as set forth in claim 1.

Kawata and Bley do not explicitly disclose the following claim limitations:

The image recording method according to claim 1, wherein the recording records the identification information loaded in the information loading, in a header part of an image file in which the photographed subject image is recorded.

However, in the same field of endeavor Conner discloses the deficient claim limitations, as follows:

A recording step records the identification information loaded (*i.e. patient id*) in the information loading step, in a header part (*i.e. 400*) of an image file in which the photographed subject image is recorded [*col. 8, ll. 42-65*].

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the teachings of Kawata and Bley with Conner so as to store the identification information in the header, the reasoning being to enable file interchange [*col. 1, ll. 8-13*].

Regarding claims 18 and 22 all claimed limitations are set forth and rejected as per discussion for claim 4.

[5] Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kawata** in view of **Bley** further in view of **Saito**^{iv}.

Regarding claim 6, Kawata and Bley meet the claim limitations as set forth in claim 1.

Kawata and Bley do not explicitly disclose the following claim limitations:

The image recording method according to claim 1, wherein while the subject identification information and the subject information are being transmitted to the digital camera, the digital camera is inhibited from being used for photographing. However, in the same field of endeavor Saito discloses the deficient claim limitations, as follows:

The image recording method according to claim 5, wherein while the subject identification information and the subject information are being transmitted to the digital camera (*i.e. communication mode enabled*), the digital camera is inhibited from being used for photographing (*i.e. photographing mode disabled*) [col. 16, ll. 16-22].

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the teachings of Kawata and Bley with Saito to disable photographing while transmitting, the reasoning being to save power usage.

Regarding claim 10 all claimed limitations are set forth and rejected as per discussion for claim 6.

[6] Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Kawata** in view of **Bley** further in view of **Fukuoka**^v et al. (“Fukuoka”).

Regarding claim 11, Kawata and Bley meet the claim limitations as set forth in claim 1.

Kawata and Bley do not explicitly disclose the following claim limitations:

The image recording method according to claim 1, wherein: the information loading loads recorded image information containing at least one of image format, the number of pixels, compression rate, file size, and image aspect ratio; and the digital camera records the photographed image on a basis of the loaded recorded image information.

However, in the same field of endeavor Fukuoka discloses the deficient claim limitations, as follows:

The image recording method according to claim 1, wherein: the information loading loads recorded image information containing at least one of image format (*select format*), the number of pixels, compression rate, file size, and image aspect ratio; and the digital camera records (*i.e. make selected file*) the photographed image on a basis of the loaded recorded image information (*i.e. selected format*) [fig. 11; col. 24, ll. 45-55].

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the teachings of Kawata and Bley with Fukuoka to make an image file based on selected format, the reasoning being to enable compatibility with other systems.

Conclusion

[7] **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the

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mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

[8] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Sath V. Perungavoor whose telephone number is (571) 272-7455. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Matthew C. Bella whose telephone number is (571) 272-7778, can be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Dated: July 29, 2008

/Matthew C Bella/
Supervisory Patent Examiner,
Art Unit 2624

Sath V. Perungavoor
Telephone: (571) 272-7455

ⁱ US 6,542,627 B1

ⁱⁱ US 6,038,012

ⁱⁱⁱ US 5,579,393

^{iv} US 5,724,155

^v US 5,960,155